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LAWSON
TALES OF
LEONARDO
BLIND SIGHT™

THE STORY THUS FAR...

AT HIS SENSEI'S URGING, LEONARDO AGREES TO TAKE PART IN A VISION. IT IS SPLINTER'S HOPE THAT THERE, IN A REALM BEYOND THE PHYSICAL, LEO MAY FIND THE ANSWER THAT HE SEEKS....

STORY AND ART • JIM LAWSON

LETTERING • ERIK SWANSON

MIRAGE PUBLISHING

EDITOR, CREATIVE CONSULTANT • PETER LAIRD
MANAGING EDITOR • MURPHY
PRODUCTION, DESIGN • ERIC TALBOT

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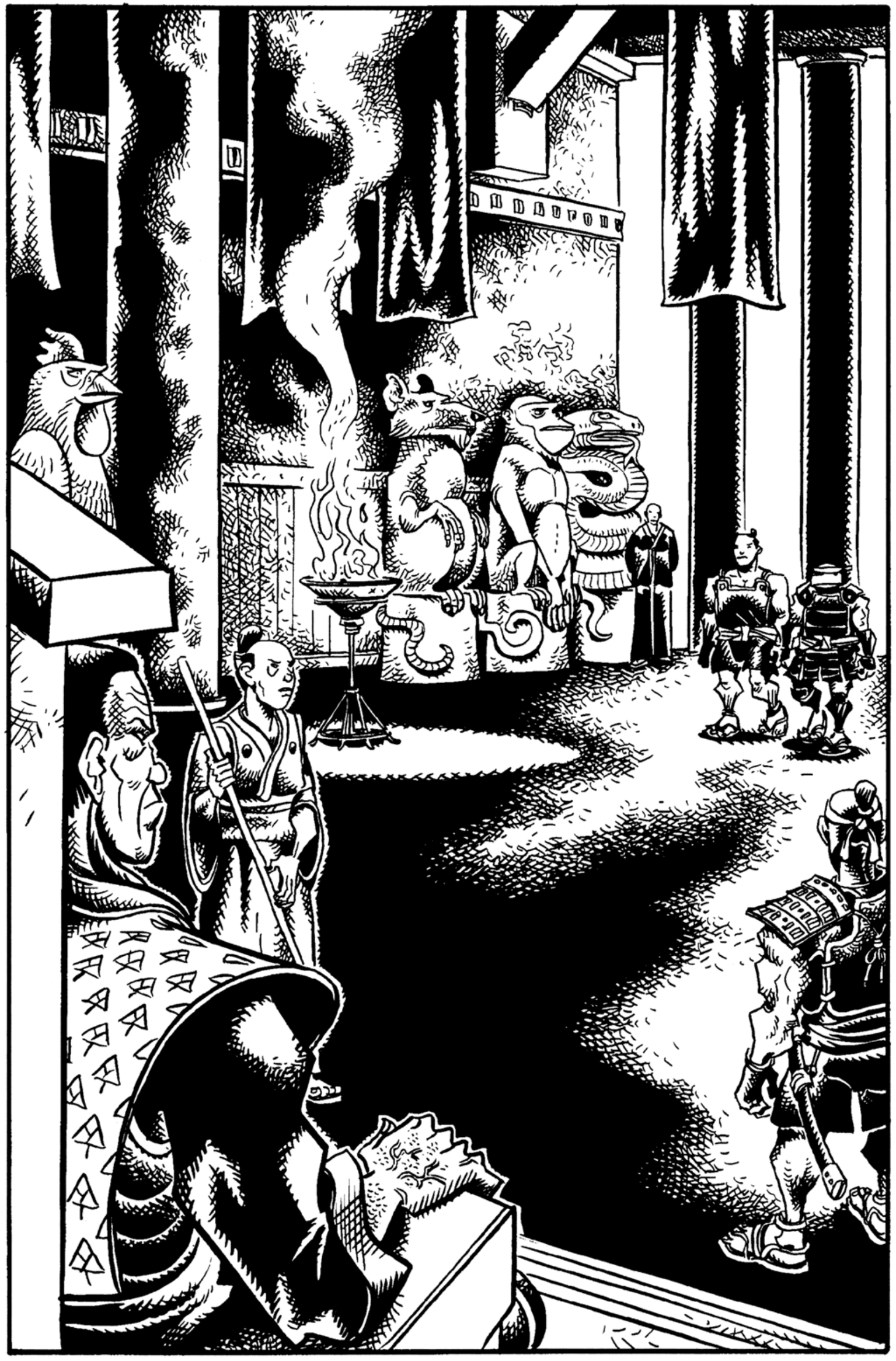
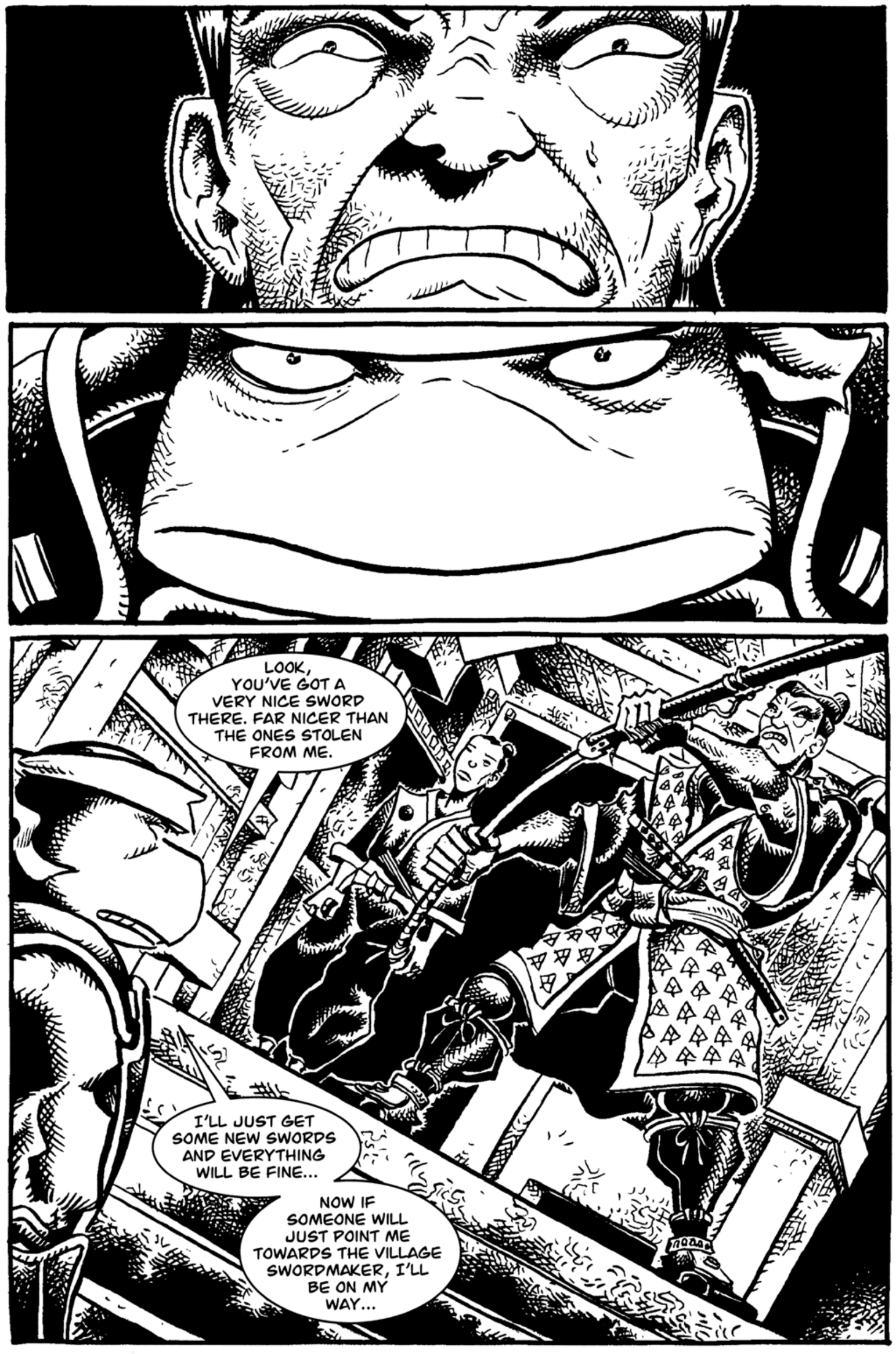


SPLINTER?!
NO, IT'S KUBIRA... THE RAT OF THE JAPANESE ZODIAC...
WORD HAS REACHED MY EARS THAT YOUR SWORDS HAVE BEEN STOLEN.
THAT'S TRUE. THEY WERE TAKEN LAST NIGHT.
IDIOT!
HOW COULD YOU HAVE ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN?!
UH... I WAS - ASLEEP.
ARE YOU MOCKING ME? YOU FORGET YOUR PLACE!
YOU SERVE ME - THEREFORE YOUR SWORDS ARE THE SAME AS IF THEY ARE MINE!
YOU WOULD HAVE SOMEONE TAKE MY PROPERTY?!


LOOK, YOU'VE GOT A VERY NICE SWORD THERE. FAR NICER THAN THE ONES STOLEN FROM ME.
I'LL JUST GET SOME NEW SWORDS AND EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE...
NOW IF SOMEONE WILL JUST POINT ME TOWARDS THE VILLAGE SWORDMAKER, I'LL BE ON MY WAY...

YOUR INSOLENCE IS SURPRISING... AND I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
NO ONE SPEAKS TO ME THIS WAY!
KLIK
LOOK AT YOU - A SWORDSMAN WITH NO SWORDS...
I ASK YOU - WHAT GOOD ARE YOU?
I'VE BEEN WONDERING THAT MYSELF LATELY
OUT! YOUR PRESENCE HERE SHAMES ME AND MY HOUSE!

I DECREE YOU EXILED! LEAVE THIS VILLAGE AND IF YOU EVER RETURN YOUR WIFE AND CHILD WILL BE EXECUTED!
I SHOULD KILL YOU BUT SHAME IS FAR WORSE THAN DEATH.
DAIMYO

GRRRR
BAF
REMEMBER LEO...
...IT'S JUST A VISION.

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHY I'M HERE...
WHAT IS THIS TRYING TO SHOW ME?
WHY AM I NOT SEEING IT?
THE DAIMYO... I DON'T TRUST HIM. HE SEEMED JUST A LITTLE TOO EAGER TO GET RID OF ME.
YOU!
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU!

EASY, LEO...
...YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE CONTROL AGAIN.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME IN THE FIELD YESTERDAY...
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT IT HERE!

HMPH.
NICE MOVE.
SHFF
OOF!

YUMI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU!
FORGIVE ME, FATHER.
WHY DID YOU ATTACK ME?
I MUST CONFESS THAT I WAS CURIOUS... WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO FIGHT YOU...
...AFTER ALL, IT WAS THE REASON I WAS SENT HERE.
WHAT WAS? TO KILL ME?
YES... BUT I KNEW I COULDN'T -
I WAS GOING TO TAKE MY OWN LIFE INSTEAD!
OH, PLEASE FORGIVE ME, FATHER!

GET UP, YUMI. THERE IS NOTHING TO FORGIVE.

WHO SENT YOU?
PLEASE, FATHER. I WAS SWORN NOT TO SAY.

THAT'S OKAY, I THINK I CAN ADD TWO AND TWO.
FATHER...

...YOU MUST NOT RETURN TO THE VILLAGE. IT IS NOT SAFE.

I'VE BEEN SET-UP. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY....

FATHER. YOU SHOULD GO DEEPER INTO THE HILLS...
...THERE MAY BE OTHER ASSASSINS SENT TO KILL YOU.

LET 'EM TRY
YUMI. I WANT YOU TO GET HOME. MAKE SURE YOUR MOTHER IS SAFE. AND DON'T LET YOURSELF BE SEEN.

FATHER, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
YOU NEVER MIND THAT.

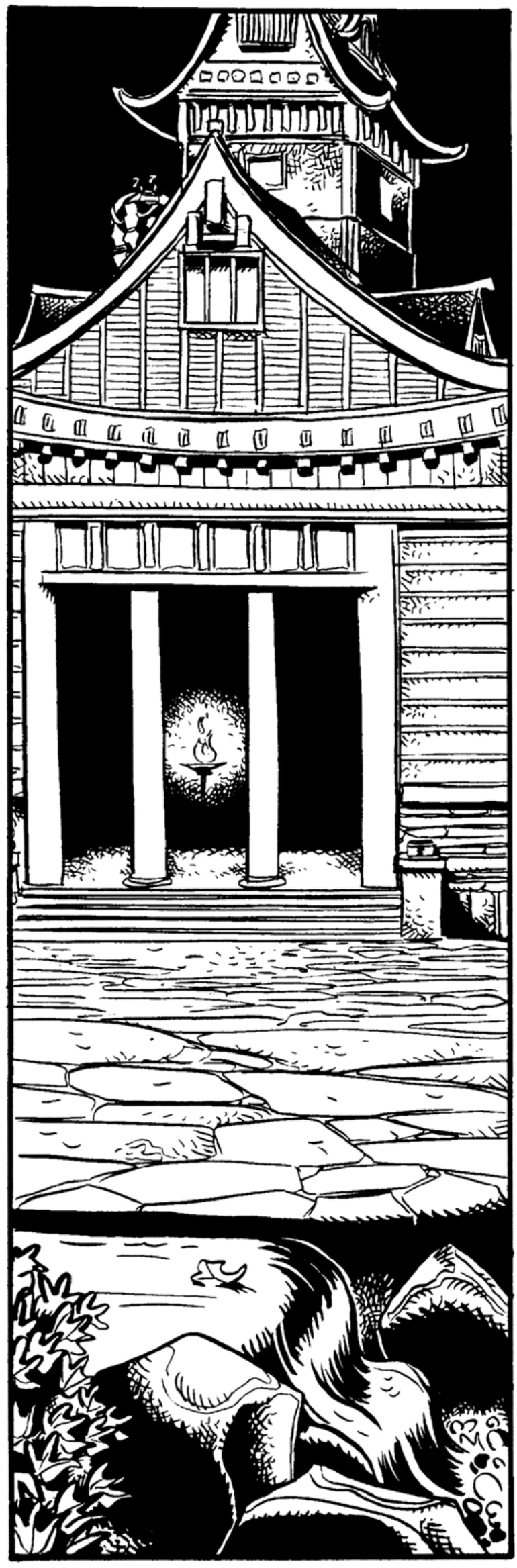
WELL, AT LEAST... PLEASE, TAKE MY SWORD.

NO, YOU KEEP IT.
IF THERE'S OTHER NINJA AROUND YOU MIGHT NEED IT YOURSELF.

FATHER, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHEN YOU PASSED BY, HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS THERE, HIDING BEHIND THE ROCK?

THE GUY. THE GUY IN THE PATH. HE WARNED ME.

BUT FATHER... THERE WAS NO ONE THERE.



THERE IS A TALE THAT HAS SPREAD AMONG THE VILLAGERS...
...THAT YOU ARE THE SON OF KAPPA, THE TURTLE DEMON. IT IS SAID THAT YOUR FATHER CAST YOU OUT OF HIS HOUSE.
KUBIRA, THE RAT, SAW AN OPPORTUNITY AND TOOK YOU IN AND RAISED YOU AS HIS SON. YOU WERE SO FULL OF HATRED THAT KUBIRA KNEW THAT IF YOU COULD BE TRAINED TO FOCUS THAT ANGER, THAT YOU COULD BECOME THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN ALL OF JAPAN.
INDEED, WHEN YOUR TRAINING WAS COMPLETE, KUBIRA KNEW THAT HE HAD CHOSEN WISELY. IT WAS THEN THAT HE BID YOU REPAY HIM FOR HIS CHARITY IN RAISING YOU.
YOU WERE TO RETURN TO YOUR FATHER AND KILL HIM. YOU SEE, ONCE YOUR FATHER WAS DEAD, KUBIRA WOULD BE FREE TO TAKE THE RICHES THAT HE HAD COLLECTED OVER THE AGES.
KUBIRA'S LAST GIFT TO YOU WAS A PAIR OF MAGIC SWORDS WITH WHICH TO CARRY OUT THE KILLING.
YOU AGREED, HOWEVER, WHEN YOU CAME FACE TO FACE WITH YOUR FATHER, YOU FOUND THAT YOU COULD NOT TAKE HIS LIFE.
YUMI.
WHEN KUBIRA FOUND THIS OUT, HE BECAME SO ANGRY THAT HE BANISHED YOU TO EARTH, CURSED TO LIVE OUT YOUR MORTAL LIFE AMONG MAN.

PERHAPS IN HIS FURY, KUBIRA FORGOT TO TAKE BACK HIS MAGICAL SWORDS.
MY SWORDS. I KNEW IT!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU. IN ALL HONESTY, I WOULD HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED IF I'D HEARD THAT YOUR DAUGHTER HAD KILLED YOU.
RATHER, I'D HOPED THAT YOU HAD UNKNOWINGLY KILLED HER AND THEN - IN A FIT OF ANGUISH...TAKEN YOUR OWN LIFE... WITH HER SWORD.
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT - SWORDS?
YES, SWORDS. BUT NOT JUST ANY SWORDS.
COME, LOOK AT THIS.

THE LEAVES TELL THE STORY.
SPLISH
NOTICE HOW FOR THE MOST PART THEY AVOID MY BLADE.
SPLISH
THOSE THAT DO BUMP INTO IT, MERELY ROLL OFF....
NOW, ONE OF YOUR BLADES.
SPLISH
SPLISH
THE LEAVES ARE DRAWN TO IT. EACH ONE SLICES ITSELF NEATLY IN HALF.
THESE SWORDS OF YOURS CONTAIN YOUR FURY, DON'T THEY?
THE MAN WHO WIELDS THEM WOULD BE UNBEATABLE.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE...

...SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD NEVER HOPE TO CONTROL THEM.
WHY WOULD I WISH TO TEMPER THEIR POWER?
HOW CAN YOU BE THE MASTER OF SOMETHING YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND?
I PITY YOU. BUT YOUR MISTAKE WAS MINE AS WELL - I LET THE SWORDS GET TO ME.
THEIR REASON IS CLEAR -
THEY TAKE LIFE.
MY FEAR WAS THAT THAT WAS MY PURPOSE AS WELL.
BUT NOW I SEE THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE TIED TOGETHER, THE SWORDS ARE BUT ONLY A PART OF ME. THEY DO NOT DEFINE WHO I AM.
WHAT DRIVEL! YOU HAVE BECOME WEAK!
LET'S JUST SEE...
HOW WEAK I AM...

UNARMED?! YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN DEFEAT ME UNARMED?
I AM TRULY GOING TO ENJOY THIS...!
BRING IT ON.
YAAAHHHH!!!!!

WHUMPK
FFFSSSSSS
BAE

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THP
CHANG

GUNCHK
YOW!

BAZ
DOOM
KREK
SHREK
HE'S LOST IT...
ARE YOU TIRED YET, CREATURE?
YOU CANNOT AVOID ME FOREVER...

SHAK

GRAB

RRIPPK

KA TINK
TINK
SLICE
YAHR!

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I RECOGNIZE YOU NOW.
YOU WERE THE ONE FROM THE ROOFTOP THAT NIGHT IN NEW YORK.

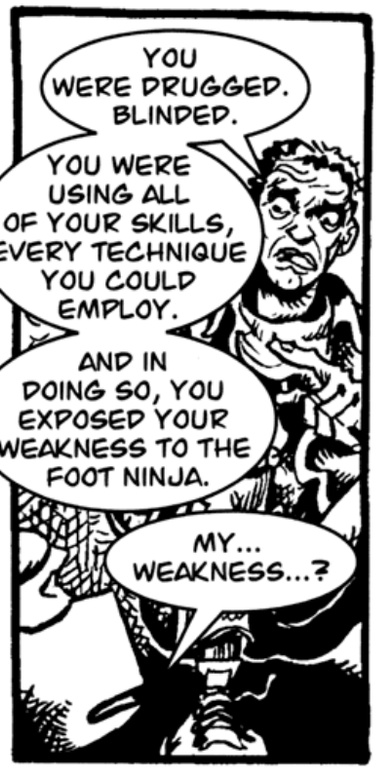
YOU WERE THE ONE... THAT I KILLED.
ARE YOU CERTAIN?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I SAW...
NOTHING. YOU WERE BLIND, REMEMBER?

YOU FIRST THOUGHT THAT YOU HAD KILLED THE BLIND FOOT NINJA... BUT THEN YOU REALIZED THE BODY AT YOUR FEET WAS MINE.
IF YOU COULD HAVE BEEN WRONG THE FIRST TIME, ISN'T IT AS LEAST AS LIKELY THAT YOU COULD BE WRONG THE SECOND?

YOU'RE SAYING THAT... THAT THE FOOT NINJA TRICKED ME? BUT I - I FELT MY SWORD GO THROUGH FLESH, HEARD BLOOD POURING INTO HIS CHEST...
DID YOU?

OF COURSE I DID! I... I...


YOU WERE DRUGGED. BLINDED.
YOU WERE USING ALL OF YOUR SKILLS, EVERY TECHNIQUE YOU COULD EMPLOY.
AND IN DOING SO, YOU EXPOSED YOUR WEAKNESS TO THE FOOT NINJA.
MY... WEAKNESS...?

YOUR DRIVE. YOUR DESIRE FOR... PERFECTION. HE UNDERSTOOD THIS QUALITY IN YOU AND USED IT TO DISTRACT AND CONFUSE YOU.

EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN.
WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER?

I FELT THE MUSCLES OF HIS CHEST PART UNDER THE EDGE OF MY BLADE... A SLIGHT DEFLECTION AS MY KATANA NICKED ONE OF HIS RIBS. I HEARD HIS BREATH.

HIS BREATH.

WHAT?

HIS BREATH.

WHY DO YOU...?

HIS BREATH.

LEONARDO... DID THE TEA WORK?
YES, MASTER. THE TEA WORKED.

I CAN SEE NOW.
THAT IS EXCELLENT NEWS.

THANK YOU, MASTER.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW...

WHEN I WAS IN MY VISION,
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY MEET BUT GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF SOMEONE WHO COULD HAVE BEEN A LONG-LOST RELATIVE OF YOURS...

...HIS NAME WAS KUBIRA.
AH, EXCELLENT.
THE RAT OF THE JAPANESE ZODIAC ... CUNNING AND RESOURCEFUL.

THE END

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